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MULTIPLE-ANTENNA JAMMING SYSTEM

DEDICATORY CLAUSE

10 The invention described herein may be manufactured, used and licensed by or for the Government for governmental purposes without the payment to us of any royalties thereon.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 [0001] Active Protection Systems (APS) are small air defense systems that provide protection for ground vehicles such as tanks against anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs). Therefore, APS present a potential threat to the effective lethality of anti-armor missiles. To counteract the APS, missile-borne counter-active protection system (CAPS) jammers have been developed. The aim of such jammers is to disable the APS fire control radar so that the targeted ground vehicle remains vulnerable to the missile attack. A representative architecture of a CAPS jammer is depicted in Figure 1. In a typical operation mode, any emissions from APS enemy radar are monitored by receiving antenna 101 in conjunction with activity detector 103.

20 When such emissions are intercepted, indicating the presence of an enemy radar, then jamming signal is generated by jammer techniques generator 107 and amplified to a high level in transmitter amplifier 109 and subsequently radiated toward the enemy radar to disable the enemy radar. The functions of the

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generator and amplifier are controlled by jammer controller 105. The jamming signal is intended to interfere with the enemy radar's reception of its own signal being reflected from the surface of the incoming missile. With successful interference, the enemy radar is rendered incapable of accurately tracking the 5 missile and initiating the destruction of the missile before it can strike the target vehicle.

[0002] A counter-active protection system jammer has been developed that utilizes conformal end-fire (surface wave) antennas on the exterior of the missile and the electronics already within the missile. With this jammer on 10 board, the seeker missile homes on the selected target while simultaneously jamming the enemy radar. The jamming process, however, presents several problems when the seeker employed by the missile is an active radio-frequency (RF) seeker. The problems are particularly acute when the frequencies of the jamming signals are very close to the operating band of the RF seeker itself.

[0003] One problem is that the conformal antennas do not function well 15 on a missile that has a transmissive radome in front of the seeker to protect the seeker hardware. Normally, in the absence of a radome, the conformal antennas used in the CAPS create radio frequency currents on the missile's conductive skin that propagate forward. These propagated currents eventually are launched 20 into the air as radiated emissions at the front of the missile. With an electrically conductive front-end of the missile (i.e. without the transmissive radome), the radiated energy is present even on the side opposite from where the antennas are located since some of the RF current does not become launched until it has traveled around the nose of the missile to the other side. In a sense, the surface 25 wave covering both sides of the missile makes the entire front-end of the missile an antenna.

[0004] However, when a transmissive radome covers the seeker at the front-end of missile 201, the radome, not being electrically conductive, does not support the wave propagation to the other side of the missile. What results is

antenna pattern shadow on that side. Antenna pattern shadowing is a significant problem because the angle between the missile body and the line of sight to the target may be up to +/- 20 degrees due to the flight trajectory of the missile.

This effect is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. This means that if the required

5 jamming spatial angle is greater than the coverage angle of the transmitting antenna, the likelihood of successful jamming of the enemy radar is very low, with a corresponding increase in the likelihood of successful tracking of the missile by the enemy radar.

[0005] Another significant problem occurs when the jamming signals 10 interfere with the seeker signals. Most RF seekers on missiles employ pulse Doppler radars. In a pulse Doppler radar, a transmit pulse is radiated followed by an interval for receiving. The receiving (or listening) interval is followed by another transmit pulse. This sequence is repeated. Therefore, the seeker is never transmitting and receiving simultaneously. The interference between the jammer 15 and the seeker can occur when the transmit pulses from the seeker (or skin reflections of the transmit pulses) are confused with emission from the enemy radar, or when the jammer energy jams the seeker. Such confusion and unintentional jamming can occur if the enemy radar, jammer and the missile seeker all emit signals in the same or close frequency band. The false signals 20 may set off the detector and jammer in the missile to no useful purpose.

Further, the transmit pulse from the seeker can cause power-handling difficulties for the jammer since they have the potential to overdrive the activity detector.

[0006] Yet a third problem occurs when the jammer energy enters the 25 seeker receiver through the seeker antenna backlobes and raises the interference level to such that the seeker receiver's minimum detectable signal required for function is increased. Such desensitization of the seeker receiver greatly decreases the seeker effectiveness with corresponding reduction in the target detection range and tracking accuracy.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The Multiple-Antenna Jamming System (MAJS) solves the above-described problems and many others by utilizing more than one each receiving antenna and transmitting antenna, and incorporating a means for synchronizing the emission sequence of the jammer with the emission sequence of the seeker so that any jamming signals that are in the in-seeker-band are not emitted simultaneously with the seeker signals. The Jamming System uses information relative to the missile's line-of-sight to the target and the associated enemy radar to select and use the receiving and transmitting antennas that are most advantageously positioned to maximize the effectiveness of the Jamming System.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0008] Figure 1 depicts a representative architecture of a typical counter-active protection system jammer.

[0009] Figure 2 illustrates the effect of surface wave propagation of the RF current on a missile that has no transmissive radome.

[0010] Figure 3 illustrates the antenna pattern shadowing that can result from the use of a transmissive radome.

[0011] Figure 4 is a diagram of a preferred embodiment of the Multiple-Antenna Jamming System typically deployed on a RF seeker missile and located between the seeker and the warhead.

[0012] Figures 5A and 5B illustrate the selection of a particular transmit antenna, among multiple transmit antennas, to maximize the jamming effect.

[0013] Figure 6 is a diagram depicting the synchronization of the transmission of the jamming signals with the emission of seeker pulses toward the selected target.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0014] Referring now to the drawing wherein like numbers represent like parts in each of the several figures and dark arrows indicate RF signal travel

5 while light arrows indicate electronic command signals, the structure and function of the multiple-antenna jamming system (MAJS) are explained in detail. The MAJS system resides in a frequency seeker missile 201 and is located typically between the warhead and seeker portions of the missile. The MAJS utilizes seeker guidance computer 401 that already is a part of the seeker.

10 [0015] During the missile's flight toward the selected target, the guidance computer controls the pattern of the seeker pulses emitted toward the target, setting the frequency band of the emitted pulses and determining the duration of the listening period between two consecutive emitted pulses, and also generates information relative to the missile's line-of-sight to the target. Any active

15 protection system (APS) that protects the target also emits pulses to detect any incoming missiles and destroy them. In MAJS, any such enemy radar emissions are detected by either of receiving antennas 405 or 407, these two receiving antennas being surface wave, conformal antennas located on opposite sides of the missile. The selection of the particular receiving antenna depends on which

20 receiving antenna is best positioned to receive the enemy radar signals as determined by jammer controller 105 based on the line-of-sight information the controller receives from computer 401. During the listening phase, the jammer controller closes first receiving switch 409 (single-pole-single-throw) to provide a signal path between the selected receiving antenna and activity detector 103.

25 Any signal received by the selected receiving antenna is coupled by second receiving switch 429 (single-pole-double-throw) to the activity detector via the first receiving switch. During the listening phase, antenna switching also occurs between the two receiving antennas to accommodate the changing line-of-sight information and to reduce the loss due to antenna shadowing.

[0016] Since these enemy radar emissions are received during the missile seeker's listen time (i.e. no seeker pulses are emitted), any detected signals are indicative of the presence of an active protection system that needs to be disabled to increase the effectiveness of the missile. Upon detection of an enemy radar, the jammer controller causes jamming signals to be transmitted from transmit antennas 425 or 427, also conformal antennas, located on opposite sides of the missile, the selection again depending on which is the best positioned transmit antenna given the line-of-sight information. The objective is to choose the particular transmit antenna with the lowest line-of-sight angle.

5 10 This is illustrated in Figures 5A and 5B.

[0017] Jammer signal generator 107 produces jammer signals that are biplexed by band reject filter 415 and band pass filter 417 into out-of-seeker-band signals and in-seeker-band signals, respectively. The out-of-seeker-band jamming signals are continuously transmitted for maximum effect, whereas the

15 in-seeker-band jamming signals are transmitted periodically, in synchronization with the emission pattern of the seeker pulses, such that the in-seeker-band jamming signals are transmitted only when the seeker itself is transmitting. The in-seeker-band jamming signal is gated in first transmitting switch 419 that is, however, turned off during the seeker listen time. This "turn-off" prevents
20 the in-seeker-band jamming signals from interfering with the seeker's listening capability. The synchronization is performed by jammer controller 105 in cooperation with computer 401 and is illustrated in Figure 6.

[0018] The two channels of jamming signals are combined and provided to transmitter amplifier 109 that amplifies the jamming signals before they are
25 applied to the selected transmit antenna for radiation. Throughout the jam mode, switching between the transmit antennas is performed by second transmit switch 423 under the direction from the jammer controller. The switching is based on the indicated line-of-sight angle output from the guidance computer and aims to minimize antenna shadowing loss.

[0019] Using oppositely-located antennas and synchronizing the radiation of jamming signals with the emission of the seeker pulses optimizes the jamming energy on the enemy radar at or around the seeker frequency band without interfering with the seeker operation .

5 **[0020]** Although a particular embodiment and form of this invention has been illustrated, it is apparent that various modifications and embodiments of the invention may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the foregoing disclosure. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be limited only by the claims appended hereto.